United Nations E/C.2/2003/2/Add.12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 October 2003

Original: English

**Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**
**Resumed 2003 session**
15-19 December 2003

# Quadrennial reports for the period 1996-1999, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

## Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

Contents


| | | Page |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development | 2 |
| 2. | Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation | 4 |
| 3. | Nature Conservancy | 6 |
| 4. | South North Development Initiative | 7 |
| 5. | Together Foundation for Global Unity | 9 |


03-54724 (E) 191103

# 1. Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development*

## (General consultative status granted in 1996)

The Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) is a coordinating body the National Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development from 21 countries of the A Pacific. The AFPPD, since 1981, has been working with the objective to educate and involve parliamentarian population and development related issues such Sustainable Development, Environment, Food Security, Wa Status of Women and its relationship with Population and Reproductive Health issues, and with the aim promote collaboration amongst parliamentarians, their associates and institutions in all the countries of Asi the development, utilization and sharing of data, information, research findings, expertise and experie pertaining to population and development.

AFPPD has full-time offices in India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and works v closely with the Parliaments of the region. The AFPPD has been financially supported by UNFPA, and spe projects have been funded by the World Bank, UNAIDS, WHO, Rockefeller Foundation, AusAID, Governmen Finland, CIDA Canada.

**Seeing to the importance and effectiveness of the work of AFPPD, the Government of Japan allocated US$ 1 Million trust fund to UNFPA, specially for parliamentarians' activities.**

### Membership

Australia, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Japan, Nepal, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakis Philippines, Korea, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Krygyzstan, New Zealand, Uzbekistan Western Samoa

### Other Participating Countries

Bhutan, Iran, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Tonga

### Cooperation with UN Bodies and Special agencies

AFPPD has a very close working relation with UNFPA and works with UNAIDS and WHO. AFPPD a has close cooperation with UNDP, UNICEF and ESCAP. AFPPD implements UNFPA's ICPD Plan of Ac through the involvement of elected representatives.

### Action in implementation of UN Resolution

AFPPD works to implement UN Resolution on ICPD Plan of Action at International and Regional Levels

### Consultation and Cooperation with UN Secretariat

AFPPD did not have consultation with the officials of the UN Secretariat, but it has close consultation cooperation with other UN agencies, such as UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP. AFPPD did prepare any paper for the Social and Economic, council but made Statements at several UNFPA meeti including the UNFPA Hague Forum on ICPD and Special session of the General Assembly on ICPD+5 review.

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

**Consultative and Substantive Acts**

AFPPD organized one International Parliamentarians Forum, and Several Regional and National Meetings of Parliamentarians on ICPD implementation and Resource Mobilization.

**International Programmes**

- AFPPD in cooperation with UNFPA and other Parliamentarians Organizations organized the International Parliamentarians Meetings on Food Security, Population and Development in Geneva on 10th-11th November 1996. Seventy-five Parliamentarians and UN agencies attended the meeting. Financial assistance was provided by UNFPA.
- AFPPD in cooperation with UNFPA and other International and Regional Parliamentarians Organizations organized the International Conference of Parliamentarians on ICPD Review in the Hague on 4th to 6th February 1999. The Parliament of the Netherlands hosted the event. More than 300 parliamentarians attended the event. Financial assistance was provided by UNFPA, World Bank, CIDA Canada and Government of Finland.
- AFPPD with financial support from UNFPA organized large numbers of National and Regional Parliamentarians Advocacy Seminars and Meetings to involve parliamentarians in Population and Development related issues such as Water, Food Security, Environment, Sustainable Development.

**Regional Programmes**

- 5th General Assembly of AFPPD was organized at Canberra, Australia on 25th to 27th September 1996 in Canberra (Australia) attended by 96 parliamentarians from 25 countries.
- AFPPD in cooperation with UNAIDS organized the Inter-Country Meeting of Parliamentarians and Specialists on HIV/AIDS and STDs in Bangkok on 12th to 14th November 1999, which was a starting point for national Level Advocacy Seminars for Parliamentarians.
- 13th APDA-AFPPD Joint Regional Parliamentarians Seminar on *Water Resources, Population and Development* in Kobe, Japan, on 17th to 18th March 1997.
- Indian Association of parliamentarians on Population and Development (IAPPD), in cooperation with AFPPD, organized a Regional Seminar of Parliamentarians on Water Resources and Population in Parliament House Annex on 20th to 21st December 1997.
- 14th APDA-AFPPD Joint Regional Parliamentarians Seminar on Food Security, Social Gender` Equity was organized in New Delhi, India, on 4th to 5th April 1998 and 15th Parliamentarians Seminar on "AFTER HUGUE" at Seoul, Korea on 18th to 19th April 1999.
- Sri Lanka Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (SCPPD), in cooperation with AFPPD, organized a South Asian Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in Colombo on 6th - 7th August 1999.
- Mongolia Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development organized a Sub-Regional Parliamentarians Conference on Population and Development for CIS and Far-East countries in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 1st to 3rd August 1999.
- Asian Sub-Regional Meeting of Parliamentarians on Poverty Food and Environment in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21st to 22nd September 1999.
- 6th General Assembly of AFPPD on *Asian Population in the Next Millennium* in Niigata, Japan, on 4th to 6th October 1999. This Assembly also elected new office-bearer for 1999-2002.

**Exchange and Study Visits**

- AFPPD in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation, Partners in development and UNFPA, organized a Study Visit of 10 members of parliament from Australia and New Zealand to Thailand and Vietnam from 12th to 20th July 1997 to provide first-hand information about the Population and Reproductive Health situation and related programmes and needs for further assistance. This helped Australian and New Zealander parliamentarians to raise issues in their parliaments and demand for more resources.

- Similar Parliamentarians Study Visit by Canadian Parliamentarians to Thailand, Vietnam and Japan was also organized with the Canadian Parliament and UNFPA from 3rd to 11th July 1998. This visit motivated Canadian parliamentarians to work with their government on resource allocation for Population and Reproductive Health programmes.

- Parliamentarians from Sri Lanka arid Vietnam visited successful Programme of Thailand.

**Resource mobilization**

- AFPPD has been working with Japanese, Australian, New Zealander, Canadian and other European donor country parliamentarians to raise support for population programme from their countries.

**Support to other Regional Groups**

- AFPPD has become a focal point for international activities. Apart from organizing International Parliamentarians Meetings, AFPPD also supported the development of the Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (CAPPD), the New Zealand Parliamentarians' Group on Population and Development, and African and Arab Forum o f Parliamentarians on Population and Development (FAAPPD).

## 2. Ibero-American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation*

### (Special consultative status granted in 1976)

**First**

During the days 16, 17 and 18 October 1996, in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) the "XXVI Jornadas Iberoamericanas de Derecho Aeronáutico y del Espacio y de la Aviación Comercial", were held organized by this Institute, with the assistance of Delegates belonging to Public Administration, Universities, Airline Companies, etc. of all Ibero-American, North American and European countries. Formulating CONCLUSIONS about the following subjects:

- Condition of the integration of the Centralamerica commercial aviation, from the point of view of the tourism.
- Juridic consequences coming from the piracy of satellite signals.
- The privatisation of the airports and the services of air navigation.
- The security of the flight into the juridic frame of the OACI.

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

These CONCLUSIONS were communicated to Governments and interested International organizations such as C.L.A.C. (Comisión Latino Americanad de Aviación Civil) and O.A.C.I/I.C.A.O.

**Second**

During the days 23, 24 and 25 September 1997, in Salvador de Bahia (Bresil), the following was held: "XXVII Jornadas Iberoamericanas de Derecho Aeronáutico y del Espacio y de la Aviación Comercial". Attending were nearly 500 persons of 16 Ibero-American Countries. Discussed were subjects such as Moral Damage, Aeronautical and Airport insurance, Systems of Civil Responsibility, Judicial-work Relating to Personnel International, Recognition of Airplane Registration and Satellite Communications.

The CONCLUSIONS WERE, as habitual, sent to Governments and International Organizations.

**Third**

During the days 14, 15 and 16 October 1998, in Lisbon (Portugal) the following was held:

- Aspects of the Public Law and Private Law in the privatization of the airports.
- The insurance of liability in the airports operations.
- Concrete aspects of the liberty of competence in the air transport.
- The civil responsibility of the aviation companies, facing the new Regulation of the C.E.E. (European Economic Community).
- The international air transport exclusive of merchandises.

As usual the CONCLUSIONS were sent to Governments and interested International Organizations.

**Fourth**

During the days 12, 13 and 14 October 1999 in the City of Panama (Republica of Panama) the following was held:

- The alliances between air transport companies and its incidence in Latinamerica.
- General conditions of the air transport with special consideration of the shared code.
- Fiability in the air transport according the revision of the Varsovie Convention, agreed by the Juridic Committee of the O.A.C.I. in May 1999.
- Solutions of controversies related to spatial activities.

The CONCLUSIONS were sent to Governments of Ibero-American countries as well as interested International Organizations such as C.L.A.C. (Comisión Latino Americana de Aviación Civil) and O.A.C.I. / I.C.A.0 (International Civil Aviation Organization). In Panama coinciding with the celebration of the XXIX Congress, this Institute signed cooperation agreements with I.F.T.A. (International Forum of Tourism and Travel Advocates), and with the I.P.A.C. (Instituto Panamericano de Aviación Civil). The Institute has participated in the reunions of C.L.A.C. (Comisión Latino Americana de Aviación Civil) as well as in those of A.L.A.D.A. (Asociación Latino Americana de Derecho Aeronáutico y Espacial), and other organizations related with aeronautical and space law.

# 3. Nature Conservancy*

## (Special consultative status granted in 1996)

This report provides information on the work that The Nature Conservancy has been doing in the last three years with the United Nations bodies and other specialized agencies. The Nature Conservancy has worked a great deal with the United Nations, especially UNDP and UNEP, attending meetings, supporting partners and creating joint-level efforts. The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

The Nature Conservancy has cooperated with many different UN bodies and other agencies and attended a variety of UN meetings. For instance, the Organization's representatives attended the SPAW Protocol SBSTTA Meeting in August 1999 in Havana, Cuba as well as the SPAW Protocol COP in Kingston Jamaica, February 2000. TNC was also invited to make a special presentation on its Eco-Regional Marine Priority Setting Plan for the Central Caribbean at the UN Informal Consultative Process of the Ocean and the Law of the Sea, in New York City in May of 2000. Other examples of UN related activities The Nature Conservancy has been involved in include:

**1)** A UNEP contract to do CAMPAM (Association of Marine Protected Area Managers of the Caribbean) members training at Parque del Este in the Dominican Republic. The goal of the Training of Trainers program is essentially to build a cadre of Caribbean marine protected area managers who are able to design and deliver quality training programs that will result ultimately in improved MPA management in the Caribbean. Participants for the course were selected by UNEP/CAR-RCU on the basis of training experience and responsibilities relative to marine protected area (MPA) management, as well as a commitment to conduct in-country training activities as follow-up to the Training of Trainers (TOT) course.

The course was attended by 15 MPA managers and stewards from 8 countries (Dominican Republic, Cuba, Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia and Venezuela) selected by UNEP-RCU.

**2)** The Nature Conservancy's representatives have helped produce a Funding Guide for Caribbean Protected Area Managers which is being jointly published by TNC and UNEP.

**3)** TNC obtained a UNEP-GEF mid-size grant ($750 thousand) for 6 countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay and Peru). The objective of this project is to catalyze science-based decision making and conservation action on landscape management alternatives in five important ecoregions of Latin America. To achieve this objective the project would support the following activities:

(a) Compile critical information on the status and threats to biodiversity (in a variety of forms, including thematic maps, satellite images, and ecological, biological, and socioeconomic databases);

(b) Use data collected to prioritize critical areas for biodiversity conservation in each of the ecoregions; and

(c) Develop landscape management plans for 1 to 2 sites per ecoregion. Detailed information allows policy-makers to make decisions based on proposed limits of ecological and biological importance, geopolitical divisions (States, provinces, etc.), highways, population centers, possible threats, etc. Therefore, this project will provide the basic and critical information required to take action for conservation.

**4)** TNC is assisting UNDP and UNEP with Block B preparation for a Central Caribbean GEF grant proposal on marine and coastal area management.

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

**5)** TNC has supported NGO participation at NGO-GEF Consultations prior to each GEF Executive Council Meeting (from 1996-1999). Over a dozen NGOs, mostly from Latin America and the Caribbean were sponsored to attend these meetings and learn about GEF issues and procedures.

**6)** TNC is working with UNESCO and the United Nations Foundation on ways in which World Heritage natural sites could receive significantly greater financial and technical support.

## 4. South North Development Initiative*

### (Special consultative status granted in 1996)

South North Development Initiative was granted Special Consultative Status in 1996. The following pages describe South North's mission, activities, countries of operation and joint efforts made in conjunction with a variety of UN-related bodies and initiatives both in the US and in the countries where South North works to promote economic and social development. It is South North's hope that we can continue to build upon the strong relationship we have enjoyed with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

**Introduction**

South North's Mission is to establish local venture capital funds (LVCs) s a widely used and accepted mechanism for social and economic development in Latin America and Southern Africa. LVC funds are designed to become permanent engines of growth by promoting entrepreneurship, supporting the development of a diversified private sector, creating jobs, and reducing poverty while simultaneously generating a return on investment. Funders and recipients alike are struggling with the fundamental question of how to ensure that development strategies are sustainable. The resource needs for social and economic development in the poorest countries of the world exceed conventional funding sources such as traditional national and international capital markets, international aid, multilateral development loans, and philanthropic contributions. New resources, financial vehicles, and partnerships must be found and developed to increase wealth and living standards in developing countries since the demand for capital far outstrips supply.

Small and medium-sized businesses in emerging economies offer the greatest employment opportunities to low-income, disenfranchised and minority groups. They are flexible in production, have the potential as training ground for managerial skills and provide rich personal relations. SME ownership by the residents of a community results in community-based economic decisions, greater stability of employment, and better community development.

Since its founding in 1991, South North and its international network of partners, associates, professional volunteers, and successful venture capitalists have worked to reduce unemployment and poverty through economic empowerment in Southern Africa and Latin America. Working to promote, develop, and implement local venture capital funds, South North's aim is to enable small and medium-sized businesses to become self-sustaining while generating profits that benefit the community. Local partners provide the leadership role in launching the LVC funds, while South North plays a catalytic, advisory, promotional and supportive role in the process. By making use of a global network of, knowledge, resources and expertise, South North is able to maintain low operational costs relative to output. South North also uses its experience to empower through education the local entrepreneurs as well as encourage the legislative foundation and the consistent legislative agendas needed for local venture capital funds to exist and be successful. South North raises two kinds of support: social investment capital for the creation and expansion of local venture capital funds, and general operating support to provide technical and managerial support to the funds and to provide educational and legislative reform initiatives to encourage the widespread acceptance and creation of local venture capital funds as a mechanism for social development.

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

Since South North Development Initiative (SNDI) has been accepted by ECOSOC in 1996, our geographical membership has expanded to include Ecuador, Mozambique, Lesotho, Mexico, Uruguay, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Peru, South Africa and Argentina. In addition to its global expansion South North has band together with the Synergos Institute (9 East 69th Street, New York, NY 10021, Telephone: 212-517-4900, Fax: 212-517-4815, E-mail: synergos@synergos.org, Website: http://www.synergos.org), an NGO with consultative status, on several projects in Latin America between 1996-1999.

**Participation on UN Meetings, Cooperation with UN bodies and Other Activities**

South North has assisted the United Nations Development Programme in projects such as, Project No. ARG/97/029I, "Promoción de Fondos de Riesgo para Pequenas Empresas." This program was set up to generate employment and eradicate poverty, through the implementation of local venture capital for small businesses, with the aspiration of bettering the overall economic condition as well as the standard of living of the low income sectors. What it did was serve as a learning experience that would yield high returns in years to come.

Later, projects FO/ARG/99/002/A and FO/ARG.99/003/A were a continuation of the learning process that was necessary to start local venture capital funds in such countries as Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador and Peru. South North spent three intensive years (1998-2000) travelling, learning and disseminating its experiences so that it could foster much needed funds in these countries. Two examples of funds that were initiated by South North during this period would be Mendoza (Argentina) and Impulsar (Ecuador).

As a result of these generous contributions, South North not only gained invaluable experience but was able to present a multitude of reports to the United Nations Development Programme regarding the economic as well as social climates in the countries at the time. South North presented to the United Nations Development Program in 1999, *Phase I — Feasibility Reviews* for: Namibia, Panama, Venezuela, Mozambique, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru and Botswana.

Continuing its efforts to create local venture capital funds, South North Development Initiative and Fomento Social in association with Mexico's largest commercial bank Banamex sought to establish Fideicomiso, Fondo Para el Desarrollo de Proyectos Productivos en las Zonas Rural de Republica Mexicana (Development Fund for Productive Projects in Rural Zones of Mexico). The fund's goal was to bring sustainable economic development to peasants in the Oaxaca and Chipas provinces. Two million dollars were set aside for technical assistance, management and marketing training for the small to medium-sized businesses in which the fund would invest. However, SNDI was not limited to Latin America.

In 1995, the Zimbabwe Progress Fund (ZPF) was established with the help of South North Development Initiative and The Synergos Institute, which remain involved to date. Later the UNDP-Zimbabwe gave a generous contribution to ZPF. The Zimbabwe Progress Fund is a Zimbabwean venture capital Company which has been providing equity capital and management support for the development of indigenous businesses. Investment in the ZPF with help to overcome severe economic inequalities by facilitating the transfer of ownership of productive assets to indigenous management and employees.

South North has also, during 1996-1999, sent a mission to Nicaragua invited by the United Nations to learn about how to develop in Latin America and offer our experience in Local Venture Capital (LVC). Additionally, South North dispatched another mission to Colombia, again invited and funded by the UNDP. From this mission we explored the feasibility of creating a fund in Colombia, but were discouraged by the constant guerrilla warfare and narco-trafficking. Both missions were to promote LVCs, educate and advocate for investment instruments that might foster development.

The Executive Director of South North attended the Annual Session of UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board, which took place in New York on 18 June 1999 to discuss the WNDP's role in private sector development in Africa.

South North Development Initiative continues its mission today in the year 2002. Hard work and experience has improved our on going dedication to Southern Africa as well as Latin America. We look forward to continuing our work in line with the United Nations and ECOSOC as we enter into a new phase, the second decade, here at South North.

## 5. Together Foundation for Global Unity*

### (Special consultative status granted in 1996)

1) *Introductory Statement*

The Together Foundation (TGF) is a National, Private, Non-Profit, Non-membership organization. Its aim is to support organizations and agencies working on matters that pertain to education, social, political and economic development, by providing them with expert information technologies consulting services, Internet-access tools and information resources.

Means to achieve these aims:

(a) The Together Foundation works closely with Juntos Interactive Media Networks, Our subsidiary for-profit Company, to provide important communications and information sharing-services. Prior to the year 2000, the subsidiary for-profit Company was TGF Technologies.

(b) The Together Foundation develops private, customized intranets for non-profit organizations and world bodies. Such work includes technical and customer support.

2) *Participation and Attendance to ECOSOC meetings*

(a) Year 1996: 43rd Plenary, 7/22/96; 44th Plenary, 7/22/96; 49th Plenary, 7/25/96; 50th Plenary, 7/25/96; 51st Plenary, 7/26/96

(b) Year 1997: 33rd Plenary, 7/18/97; 37th Plenary, 7/22/97; 42nd Plenary, 7/25/97

(c) Year 1998: 5th Plenary, 5/7/98; 44th Plenary, 7/28/98; 45th Plenary, 7/29/98; 46th Plenary, 7/38/98; 47th Plenary, 7/31/98

(d) Year 1999: E/1999/INF/2/Add.2 attended 6/23/99 and from 7/5/99 to 7/30/99

(e) Year 2000: E/2000/INF/2/Add.3 attended from 10/18/00 to 11/22/00

3) *Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies*

(a) From 1992 to 1996 (including), the Together Foundation distributed on-line UN information through its on-line network, TogetherNet. These include all documentation about all major UN conferences related to the issue of sustainable development, starting with the UN Conference on Environment and Development, and covering all conferences up to the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul in 1996. In this regard, the Foundation complied with **the mandate of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development as stated in Chapter 34 III. Initiatives for the transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies, Cooperation and Capacity-building. Development of international information networks which link national, subregional, regional and international systems.** The Together Foundation also complied with **the mandate of General Assembly document A/49/668, item 100 XVIII EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**.

* Report is being issued without formal editing.

(b) In 1996, The Together Foundation, in partnership with the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UNCHS/HABITAT), sponsored and built the Best Practices Database for Improving the Living Environment. The Database has been produced jointly every two years. Versions of the database were produced in 1996, 1998, 2000 and recently in 2002.

The Foundation's involvement in this seminal project results from its profound Commitment to the concept of sustainable development through shared ideas. This Best Practices Database, unique in its kind, not only catalogues proven solutions that have been developed by local authorities, community leaders, governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts on human settlements, but it indexes them using common criteria and reporting formats, standardizing this important information in a powerful, relational database. The Database is available via multimedia CD-ROMs and on the Internet on www.bestpractices.org.

(c) Since 1996 to this day, The Together Foundation is an active member of UNCHS Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme. Making yearly financial contributions to the Programme to ensure its compliance with Agenda 21.

(d) In 1997, the Foundation donated an internet Resource Center to the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), Non-Governmental Organization Section, located at the UN NGO Resource Center.

(e) The Foundation has been working with Group of 77 (G-77) since 1993 until the present. The Foundation developed a private custom client-server network within its platform, becoming thus, the only electronic communications tool of the G-77. Enabling the (G-77 to have its own wide-area network on which they exchanged worldwide electronic mail, shared files and documents for work and research, stored information, and obtained access to UN documents. In the year 1999, the organization upgraded this system for the G-77 and replaced it with an Intranet.

The Together Foundation regards the (3-77 as a critical worldwide economic, social and governmental association and is proud to be providing effective electronic communications, allowing the (G-77 to stay abreast of its expanding information and communication needs.

4) *Other relevant activities*

(1) Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions:

Through its information and dissemination support projects on behalf of UNCHS and the Best Practices Database in Improving the Living Environment, as well as the support to the G-77 as the sponsors of its information and communications tool, as well as the Internet Resource Center donated to UN DPI, the Together Foundation has contributed to the implementation of several ECOSOC and General Assembly (GA) resolutions dealing with the issues of education, making information and communication technologies more accessible and contributing to the implementation of Agenda 21.

(2) The original financial contribution made by the Together Foundation to UNCHS in 1996 surpasses US$250,000. Subsequent yearly contributions to its project, The Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme and the Best Practices Database, amount to $35,000 per year since 1996 to the present.